

Message Text

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62

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /091 W

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R 081312Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9788

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

GXDKR/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 067

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

USEC BRUSSELS 400

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 9086

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IN

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SUBJ: ICFTU AND THE INDIAN POLITICAL CRISIS

1. ON JUNE 26 WHEN THE STATE OF EMERGENCY WAS PROCLAIMED BY THE GOI, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE ICFTU WAS IN SESSION IN BRUSSELS. IN ATTENDANCE WERE THE ICFTU-ARO REGIONAL SECRETARY, V.S. MATHUR (BASED IN NEW DELHI), AND INTUC (CONGRESS-R) VICE PRESIDENT, J.C. DIKSHIT. ACCORDING TO SOURCES HERE, THERE WAS A MOVE BY THE SCANDNAVIAN TO CENSURE MRS. GANDHI, BUT THEIR RESOLUTION WAS NOT ADOPTED, AND THE MATTER WAS REFERRED TO THE MEETING OF THE ARO EXECUTIVE BOARD NOW MEETING IN BANGKOK.

2. WHILE MATHUR PRIVATELY WAS VERY CRITICAL OF THE ABRIDGEMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN INDIA, HE HAS INDICATED TO US THAT HE IS INTENT ON MAINTAINING THE PRESENCE OF THE ICFTU IN INDIA AND THEREFORE WAS WORKING HARD TO AVOID HAVING THE BANGKOK MEETING TAKE AN ANTI-INDIAN STAND. PART OF HIS PROBLEM WAS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE HMS (NOMINALLY INDEPENDENT) -- ONE OF THE TWO ICFTU INDIAN AFFILIATES -- MIGHT TAKE AN ANTI-GOI POSITION AT BANGKOK. HE CLAIMS TO HAVE ASSURANCES THAT HMS GENERAL SECRETARY MAHESH DESAI WHO WILL REPRESENT HIS ORGANIZATION HAS AGREED TO DEFEND THE GOI ALONG WITH THE INTUC REPRESENTATIVE, BIKAS MAZUMDAR (COMMENT: DESAI'S WILLINGNESS TO TOE THE GOI LINE INDICATES AN HERETOFORE UNKNOWN OPPORTUNISTIC TALENT.) MATHUR EXPECTS THE ARO REPRESENTATIVES FROM ISRAEL, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND TO TAKE A HIGHLY CRITICAL VIEW OF THE GOI'S ACTIONS, BUT HE BELIEVES THEY CAN BE FENDED OFF ON THE GROUND THAT THE GOI HAS NOT MOVED AGAINST THE UNIONS. (COMMENT: SO FAR.)

3. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT THE ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY, OTTO KERSTEN, WHO WILL BE ATTENDING THE BANGKOK MEETING PLANS TO STOP IN NEW DELHI ON HIS WAY HOME. HE REPORTEDLY HAS SOUVC AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE MINISTER OF LABOR K.V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY. (COMMENT: THIS SUGGESTS THAT THE ARO MEETING WILL PROBABLY NOT ADOPT ANY RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD CAUSE REDDY TO REFUSE TO SEE KERSTEN).

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